Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

obtaining a scanned command mark written with a conventional writing implement onto a conventional medium; and

recognizing the scanned command mark as a command that may be executed by a processor, wherein the command mark is recognized only if the command mark is placed on a specified area of the conventional medium.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the command mark comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein recognizing comprises:

recognizing a pattern associated with the command mark based on one of a statistical model, a neural network model, and a Hidden Markov model.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein recognizing further comprises:

applying heuristic techniques to enhance accuracy of the pattern recognition, the heuristic techniques being based on previous interpretations of a command mark.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~5~~1, further comprising obtaining secondary command marks written on the conventional medium, wherein ~~a first~~ the command mark ~~must be~~ is recognized before the ~~any other~~ secondary command marks are recognized as executable commands.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the medium includes printed text, ~~and~~ wherein when the recognized command mark is executed, ~~to affect~~ the printed text is affected.

8. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

executing the recognized command in the processor.

9. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

storing the recognized command in memory.

10. (currently amended) A method comprising:

detecting stroke information associated with making a command mark with a conventional writing implement on a conventional medium; and

recognizing the command mark as a command that may be executed by a computer processor, wherein the command mark is recognized only if the command mark is placed on a specified area of the conventional medium.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the command mark comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein recognizing comprises:

recognizing a pattern associated with the stroke information based on one of a statistical model, a neural network model, and a Hidden Markov model.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein recognizing further comprises:

applying heuristic techniques to enhance accuracy of the pattern recognition, the heuristic techniques being based on previous interpretations of a command mark.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~14~~10, further comprising obtaining secondary command marks written on the conventional medium, wherein ~~a first written~~ the command mark is recognized before the ~~any other~~ secondary command marks are recognized as executable commands.

16. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

executing the recognized command in the processor.

17. (original) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

storing the recognized command in memory.

18. (currently amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores machine-executable instructions for recognizing a command mark written with a conventional writing implement onto a conventional medium, the instructions causing a machine to:

recognize the written command mark as a command that may be executed in a processor, wherein the command mark is recognized only if the command mark is written on a specific area of the medium.

19. (original) The article of claim 18, wherein the command mark comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

20. (original) The article of claim 19, wherein recognizing comprises recognizing a pattern associated with the command mark based on one of a statistical model, a neural network model, and a Hidden Markov model.

21. (cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The article of claim 19, wherein the medium includes printed text, ~~and~~ wherein when the recognized command mark is executed, ~~to affect~~ the printed text is affected.

23. (original) The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions cause the machine to execute the recognized command.

24. (original) The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions cause the machine to store the recognized command in memory.

25. (currently amended) An apparatus for recognizing a command mark written with a conventional writing instrument onto a conventional medium, comprising:

a memory that stores executable instructions; and

a processor that executes the instructions to:

recognize a scanned image of the written command mark as a command that may be executed by a computer processor, wherein the command mark is recognized only if the command mark is written on a specific area of the medium.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the command mark comprises one of a notational, transformational and operational mark.

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the recognized command is executed by the processor.

28. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the processor executes instructions to store the recognized command.

29. (currently amended) An apparatus for recognizing a command mark written with a conventional writing instrument onto a conventional medium, comprising:

a memory that stores executable instructions;

a processor that executes the instructions to:

obtain stroke data that corresponds to the written command mark, and

recognize the stroke data as an executable command, wherein the command mark is recognized only if the command mark is written on a specific area of the medium.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising:

a digital ink detecting device which detects the command mark as stroke data.